

THE MESSAGE

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JOHN BEAL, Editor and Proprietor.

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THURSDAY, FEB. 22, 1900.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

For State Senator.

We are authorized to announce
M. R. K. BIGGS
a candidate for State Senator for this district, subject to the action of the Democratic party.

For Representative.

We are authorized to announce
RHODES CLAY
a candidate for Representative of Anderson County, subject to the action of the Democratic party.

The Saloon Question.

THE Mexico Ledger contained an article a few days ago from the pen of Dr. H. K. Hinde of this city which the MESSAGE makes haste to most heartily endorse. It is concerning the saloon; or "murder mills", as Dr. Hinde calls those places. Dr. Hinde is one of our most widely informed and upright citizens and his word has standing in the church and wherever he may speak. What he says concerning this question is endorsed by hundreds of our citizens as a picture not a whit overdrawn, as only the truth and nothing else but the truth. Here are his words:

Those of us who have never seen much of the inside workings of the *murder mills* of our country have had the opportunity at the Court House in the Spencer murder trial. The picture of this one day in the Vandalia saloon ought to be sufficient to awaken in the minds of all well thinking people a proper appreciation of the terrible consequences of these dens of iniquity we are fostering in our midst.

Just think of the manner in which this Christmas day, the anniversary of the day of our Lord, was celebrated by these people in our neighboring town of Vandalia. And it was but a counterpart of the manner in which the day was celebrated in our own city of Mexico, minus the incident of the murder, which was liable to have occurred in any one of our saloons. As we sit and listen to the testimony of these saloon men, and these boys and young men of Vandalia who were in that murder mill on that fatal day; as we look upon the face of this young man, the son of a faithful Methodist preacher now in heaven; as we gaze upon the features of his old mother, now eighty years of age, and his broken hearted sister and brothers; as we see by their side the widow and little children of the murdered man, doomed to a life of sadness and grief—the question forces itself upon us: What is the real cause of all this suffering; who is the real culprit? Would there have been any of these terrible griefs had not the saloon been in Vandalia? The Vandalia people are not sinners above all other towns, but who in Vandalia is responsible for that saloon in which were gathered on that fatal Christmas day, so many of their young men, and in which this terrible tragedy was enacted.

I would not mitigate the crime of young Spencer, or the men who crazed his brain with their hellish drinks, but I would press the question upon the minds and hearts of the good people of Vandalia: Who is responsible for the existence of this saloon which led to this murder which is bringing grief to so many hearts, and disgrace upon your town? And I would ask the people of Mexico, How do you like the picture that has been drawn during this trial, of the place where some of your boys spend their evenings and leisure hours during the day. Do you realize the dangers to which they are exposed and the disgraceful associations to which they are subjected? May not the fate of this unfortunate

Vandalia young man be the fate of some of your sons if these dens of iniquity are permitted to go on? The Christian people of Mexico have this matter in their own hands. What will they do?

THE MESSAGE further remarks that the situation applies not only to Vandalia and Mexico but to every city and hamlet over the entire country where there is the free and open bar. It is a consideration not alone of morals but one of money also. A saloon draws trade to a town—only of its kind, to the saloons. It hurts the dry goods and grocery men every time.

Gentlemen, think on these things if they be not true.

Who Is Patriot?

Nothing in modern times has so clearly proven the truth of Scripture, where it says "The human heart is deceitful above all things," as does the fact that so many Republicans mistake their party prejudice for patriotism. In their heart of hearts they know that the war in the Philippines, for greed and conquest, is wrong and wicked in the sight of high heaven. Forty-nine out of every fifty of them would have condemned it in the most scathing terms if had been carried on by any other party. They know the Filipinos are not rebels, because they never owed allegiance to this government and, therefore, could not rebel.

Yes, these Republicans who profess to be Christian know in their inmost souls that we are not fighting the Filipinos, who never did us wrong, because we want to carry out the Golden Rule and do unto others as we would have others do unto us. "Righteousness exalteth a nation," and the true patriot is the man who uses his best efforts to promote national righteousness. Any other claim to patriotism is arrogant assumption, an insult to intelligence, and a sham.

PRESIDENT McKINLEY says the constitution does not apply to "our colonies," Puerto Rico, the Philippines, and so on.

Local option for Mexico—let it come. That's the referendum. Let the whole people say whether they want the open saloon in this town.

It is estimated that Andrew Carnegie's income this year will be \$42,000,000. A startling revelation of the enormous value of monopoly indeed.

THE more candidates in the field the better opportunity for the people—the more talent they have to select from. Let the candidates come. It is no offense to run for office; it is only one of the blessed privileges of American liberty.

THE ministers of Mexico are wide-awake on the temperance question. They visit the homes and they know the mischief wrought from drink. They know the reason for so many frequent calls upon the charitably disposed to aid the poor. They know we would not have so many poor in this town if it were not for the open saloon.

THERE seems to be something attractive in the word "subsidy" for the average Republican in Congress. The House committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce has decided by a vote of 8 to 5, in favor of the bill authorizing the laying of a Pacific cable by a private corporation and the payment of a subsidy by the government for a period of twenty years.

BELIEVING that if the isthmian canal is to be a world canal, instead of the distinctly American canal it ought to be, the world ought to chip in its share of the cost of constructing it. Representative Jefferson Levy, of N. Y., has introduced a bill, authorizing negotiations with the maritime nations asking them to contribute to the construction of the canal in proportion to the extent of their shipping tonnage.

Can Be Bought at The

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CHAMP CLARK says that by the open door policy is meant "free trade in spots"—wherever we can dig the other fellow. Free trade with China, free trade with other countries but customs duties if you come our way. Stinky advantages, see? That's why the proposed tariff discrimination against Puerto Rico, one of our own possessions, one of our weak neighbors. Covetousness, selfishness; a manifestation of the spirit of imperialism in its disposition to dominate over the helpless.

SENATOR JONES, of Nevada, whose speech against the Republican gold standard bill was among the best heard, after stating that the measure was vicious from beginning to end, and that it provided for a permanent increase of the bonded debt, said: "This bill places in the national banks the control of the bonded debt of the country. Whenever the banks see fit they can reduce the gold reserve below the limit and force an issuance of bonds; and this process can go on indefinitely. All this is in the interest of the creditor, in the interest of the bondholders, and grievously against the interest of the people. Political independence is much to be desired, but I would rather live under an absolute despotism and have financial independence than to have political independence and be financially dependent. Political independence without financial independence is only independence in name."

THERE are 370,000 Democratic voters in Missouri and the St. Louis Republic would have less than two hundred editors east the vote of these Dockery for Governor. For Dockery or any other man, that would not make the matter right nor conclusive. On this point Dave Ball says: Talk about trusts, if that is not the most stupendous and far-reaching paper trust on record, then I confess I do not know what a trust is. Think of it, think of the fact that we are owned and controlled in everything by the money trust, and now they have a trust on our suffrage and propose to deliver us body and soul, and last but not least delivered by the Republic that fought us in '95 and '96 on the great silver issue." Ball does not propose to be delivered by the newspapers, and if the St. Louis Republic is for silver he is going to make "Old 1898" show it. Ball charges that the Republic has not had a line in its editorial columns favoring silver since 1896.

Why Is It?

From Appeal to Reason.

For the government to loan money to all the people who make the government at cost of printing and other expenses, is one of those crazy populist ideas that carried so many political farmers off their feet a few years ago. They have most recovered from the fever, by severe doses of ridicule. The government could not afford to do such a foolish thing as to loan money on land, as is done in New Zealand, or on grain as is done by the banks. Of course it could not. It is now loaning Mr. Rockefeller some \$100,000,000 without interest and without security. Such means the recent orders of our servant, Secretary of the Treasury, in making Mr. Rockefeller's banks the depository of all the internal revenue receipts. That is not paternalism. It is simply a recognition that the only gentleman is more reliable than the government and that the money is safer with him than in the national treasury where it has heretofore been kept. I wonder if Mr. Rockefeller has turned populist? Oh, you old crazy farmers, go to.

BOER WOMEN.

Proposal to Put Them in the Trenches Against the British.

A dispatch from London, England, says: William F. Stead's Review of Reviews intimates that President Kruger's plan to make England pay a "price" that will stagger humanity for victory over the Transvaal is to fill the trenches with women.

Such a step would be a thrilling evidence of their unflinching determination to maintain their liberty, no matter what the cost of blood, and it would have a tremendous moral effect not only upon the British soldiers themselves, but upon all the nations of the

world. Boer women handle the rifle with a skill but little, if any, inferior to that of the men, but if British troops fired on women, no matter what the circumstances, it is believed such a storm of indignant comment would sweep around the world that the powers would join in a protest that would check England and result in peace on honorable terms.

POPULIST CONVENTION.

It Will Be Held in Sioux Falls, May 9.

Lincoln, Neb., Feb. 20.—The next convention of the Populist party will be held in Sioux Falls, S. D., on May 9. Representation is based upon the vote for General J. B. Weaver for President in 1892, or if any candidate for State offices has since polled a larger vote that vote shall be the basis. Two delegates-at-large are given each state.

This was the decision reached in a somewhat extended but harmonious meeting of the fusion wing of the National Committee, which concluded shortly after 1 o'clock this afternoon.

The feature of the meeting was the unanimity with which the members accepted and endorsed the declaration of Senator Allen of Nebraska that William J. Bryan would be the candidate of both the Populist and Democratic parties and the coupling with his name of that of Judge Henry Caldwell of Arkansas as the logical and most promising vice presidential possibility. Senator Allen went so far as to say that he had positive knowledge that if Judge Caldwell were nominated by the Populists as Mr. Bryan's running mate he would be acceptable to the Democrats and the fusion national ticket would be Bryan and Caldwell.

BAD FAITH.

Congressman Richardson's Opposition to the New Tariff Bill.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 20.—Mr. Richardson of Tennessee spoke in opposition to the Puerto Rican tariff bill in reply to Mr. Payne's speech in the House yesterday afternoon. He argued against the constitutional power of Congress to levy duties not uniform in the possessions of the United States.

"But even if it be conceded that Congress has the power to legislate, in accordance with the provisions of the pending bill," he continued, "then the exercise of such bill would be unwise. If we pass this bill it will be an act of bad faith toward the people of Puerto Rico. We are told that the inhabitants of that island welcomed General Miles and the armies of the United States in July, 1898, when they invaded their territory and struck down the power of Spain. They did because they were assured and confidently believed that as the tyrannous shackles of Spain were struck from them they were to be admitted to the immunity and blessings of our liberal institutions as well as our enlightenment and civilization. We are told our soldiers were hailed as redeemers. Why? It was because of the alluring promises held out to the inhabitants of the island by the United States."

Mr. Newman, silver Republican, spoke against the bill to-day. I much the same strain as Mr. Richardson. He contended that Puerto Rico was not large enough materially to effect our trade and that justice demanded that the island be given free trade with the United States.

Watch the Rush for Fire Extinguishers. In a wholesale liquor store in New York city a fire started the other day in some alcohol which had been spilled on the floor. Within a few moments the blaze had assumed really serious proportions, and the water that was poured on it only seemed to augment it.

A quick-witted employee seized some pint bottles of champagne and hurled them into the flames one after the other, as one would use hand grenades. By the time the tenth one had exploded the trick was done, and the fire engines which arrived then had no work to do. The carbonic acid gas in the champagne had killed the flames.



Close Root Pruning Methods.

From Farmers Review: For several years a method of root pruning much at variance with commonly accepted methods has been strongly advocated in certain quarters. Not all tests, however, have resulted favorably. Of twenty-five apple trees planted at the Nebraska station in the spring of 1896 only ten were living at the end of September in the same year, and very few of these showed any satisfactory growth or vigor. Of the check trees, some having the roots cut back only about one-half and the other untrimmed, not one died. From tests made at the Missouri station with the apple it was concluded that "the injury caused by too close root pruning is one that trees do not outgrow if they do not die outright. * * *

The heretofore advised by our Southern neighbor seems to be unadapted to our conditions. The mortality among our trees is too great." From the results of all the trials thus far reported it is evident that this practice of close root pruning neither merits unqualified approval nor deserves sweeping condemnation. As might have been expected, species vary greatly in their ability to endure severe root pruning. Among cultivated trees probably those which experience the least ill effects are the peach and pear. The critics of this method have attributed much of its success to conditions of soil and climate. On this point the evidence is very unsatisfactory. Stringfellow, the most ardent advocate of the method, working at Galveston with the favoring conditions of a warm, porous soil and high annual rainfall, has obtained remarkable results from close root pruning; but the Georgia and Alabama stations have also obtained satisfactory results under the adverse conditions of drought and poor, hard soil. These results certainly contradict the statements of certain critics that the method is successful only under favorable soil and meteorological conditions. Again, nearly all of these successes were achieved in the Middle and Southern states. The outcome under equally unfavorable conditions in the North might be different; in fact, at present the evidence points in that direction. Much field work is still necessary to determine the limits of applicability of this method.

The method consists in cutting back a transplanted tree to practically no root at all, or at most to a mere stub, shortening the top proportionately. The tree thus becomes to all intents and purposes a cutting. There is nothing essentially "new" about this method. Interest in it attaches to the proposition that its possibilities in practice have not been fully understood. The advantages claimed for this method are that it gives a better tree with a root system consisting of several strong roots which penetrate into the moist depths of the soil and securely anchor the tree instead of spreading out near the surface. Moreover, with the root pruned to a stub, it is no longer necessary to dig large holes in transplanting. A mere dibble hole is sufficient.

The method has been quite extensively tested both North and South. Tests were made at the Maryland station on a large scale. About 1,000 trees of various kinds were planted. At the end of the first season peach trees the roots of which were unpruned had made a greater, but not so even, growth than those that were pruned. Root-pruned pear trees made a better growth in all respects than unpruned trees. In the case of apple trees there was little if any difference between root-pruned and unpruned trees. Root-pruned plums outgrew unpruned. The Mahaleb cherry, red cedar and California privet did well under the treatment. Black Tartarian cherry on Maxard roots, Norway spruce, hemlock and Lawson cypress did not. The general result of the tests was very encouraging to the advocates of close root pruning.

A series of tests was made by the Georgia station, mainly with the peach but including also the apple and cherry, with results indicating that peach trees pruned by this method "will live and flourish in this section even in stiff clay soil and under adverse meteorological conditions. This statement may also be extended to cover apple and cherries." The method was tested at the Indiana station. The season was considered exceptionally favorable. "The result of this experiment showed that the peach tree was capable, after being deprived of all its roots and branches, of producing a magnificent root system and a top to correspond. The dwarf pear, standard pear, German prune, and Early Richmond cherry came next in order, the latter making very little root development on the pruned trees."

GUY E. MITCHELL.

Potash and Peach Trees.—Peaches, like all other products of the soil, need feeding. Potash and phosphoric acid are the principal constituents required in making the fruit. An excess of nitrogen will produce rank growth at the expense of the fruit buds. Take, for instance, the peach tree near the kitchen door which gets plenty of soapy water, which contains a large amount of lime (potash). It always has a full crop. A few pounds of potash and phosphate around each tree during the winter and you will be more than repaid for the trouble and expense.

How the Lover Fell.

Extract from a love story in a popular magazine: "He had no sooner glued his eyes to hers, which were of a deep violet color, than his heart began to beat with rapidity. A choking sensation pervaded his entire being, and but for the presence of an armchair he would have fallen semi-conscious at her feet. Rousing himself with an effort, he possessed himself of her hand and gazed at her with an expression to which she responded in excellent French."



Rescue Grass.

This is known scientifically as Bromus unioloides. It is apparently a native of the southwestern part of the United States, and was one of the first of the native grasses to be brought under cultivation. It is known as Australian oats, Australian bromo, Arctic Grass, and Schrader's bromo. Although usually an annual, repeated cuttings or persistent grazing will prevent seed bearing, and so enable the plant to live several years. It grows best on a rich loamy soil and in most localities should be treated as an annual, as it is soon crowded out by other grasses on land that has not recently been plowed. It seeds freely and yields volunteer crops as far north as the District of Columbia. When sown on suitable soil in August and September it begins its growth with the first autumn rains, and in a favorable season will give good grazing in December, while in a dry and unfavorable season it may be worth but little before February or March. When it is at its best it will often give two good cuttings for hay. Should it be desired to grow it continuously on the same field, the land ought to be plowed after the seed has matured, during the summer; it may be used to grow a crop of cow peas. Seed should be sown in August and September at the rate of 20 to 40 pounds per acre.



Native Grasses. It is acknowledged that there is no country in the world so rich in the number and variety of useful grasses and forage plants as the United States. The investigations of the Division of Agriculture have demonstrated that the country abounds in native species adapted to nearly every variety of soil and climate and to almost every requirement. There are upland and lowland varieties, there are woodland and prairie species, there are kinds which exist only in the humid regions along the coast, and there are others which thrive in the arid regions of the interior. Some are productive hay grasses or afford abundant grazing, while others again are valuable for fixing drifting sands or reclaiming impoverished or waste lands. There are decorative species for the garden or lawn, and not a few are useful in the arts and manufacture. Grasses are chiefly important, however, as food plants for all kinds of stock, yielding beef, mutton, and other animal products, which are a source of great wealth to the country, and their investigation along these lines is a most useful and essentially practical work of this department. The fine quality of the forage afforded by the native grasses of our vast cattle ranges is a matter of world-wide comment; the perpetuation and improvement of the most valuable sorts are matters of extreme importance, and these may well be the subject of practical scientific investigations at our hands.—Report Dept. of Agriculture.

Abandoned Farms in New England. My attention has been called to what is known as the abandoned farms of New England. A personal investigation of some of these farms shows that they are not abandoned on account of sterility of soil, but are in many cases capable of affording a good living to industrious farmers, and under more favorable auspices than are farms in some of our newer states, on account of nearness to market, educational institutions, and other desirable environments. The agriculturalist of the department has visited several of these farms to ascertain in what way help can be given by the introduction of grasses suitable to their various conditions, and the soil physicist will study conditions on these farms and indicate which soils may be profitably cultivated and which should be devoted to forestry. The forster will also visit these localities and determine what varieties of trees are most desirable. The department will endeavor to have farmers' bulletins prepared along these several lines for distribution among the farmers of New England.—Secretary of Agriculture W. H. S. B.

Recent experiments in Rhode Island, conducted under more nearly normal soil conditions give about 70 for the assimilability of the best quality of dried black blood.

His Terms Were Accepted. Gen. Joubert, when he was in New York city a few years ago as the guest of Henry George, told with modesty of his negotiations with the British at Majuba hill, and his eyes sparkled as he recalled his reply to the British commander in chief. "It does not comport with these," said the British general, pointing to the decorations on his breast, "to accede to your terms." To which said Joubert, pointing to his rifleman: "And it does not comport with these to offer any others."

MORE VOLUNTEERS.

England Has More Trouble of Her Own.

Queen Victoria has called for more volunteers and it is considered significant of perils elsewhere than in Africa. Russian aggression in India is threatened, and the British have been having better success against the Boers for the past week the fear of Russia overshadows the joy that under ordinary circumstances would have found vent.

A St. Petersburg paper has a vigorous article on the text that England's adversity is Russia's opportunity. It is in these words: "England has fettered Russia by many treaties. The moment has come to break these fetters. Now is the time to pay off old scores. Europe has many and heavy ones to settle with England. As England did not scruple to turn to her own advantage Russia's weakness after the Turkish War, so Russia should not hesitate to avail herself of the opportunity presented by England's difficulties in South Africa. There is no time to be lost. Russia must not wait for promised reorganization of the English military system. If she does her hour will have passed and it will be too late."

Knife Dues in Spain.

Knife dues are very frequent among the lower classes of the cities in southern Spain. When two are about to fight they blow whistles to attract spectators. Their left legs are tied together at the knees, and then, at a signal, they begin attacking each other with long knives. In a duel recently witnessed in Alicante, one of the combatants received fourteen wounds and the other seventeen.

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The Great Presidential Campaign of 1900.

The wars of America have heretofore settled affairs of state. Great questions of policy, of national motives and national conclusions have been cleared away, and the victor realized his victory. The war with Spain is unlike its predecessors. It has not answered questions, but has created problems which may not be solved lightly. These problems are being formulated by the political parties, and before they can be definitely settled at the ballot box it is necessary that the people be informed in regard to the situation. The result of the campaign of 1900 will make a broad mark upon the page of history; it doubtless establish the policy of the great Republic of America for a quarter of a century. It is vastly important, therefore, that every citizen shall understand the situation through that best of mediums, a great newspaper. The most reliable newspaper, the best newspaper, is the Semi-weekly Republic, which affords a comprehensive view of the political situation in all its bearings. It publishes the news news. The Semi-weekly Republic is a Democratic paper, but it offers to its readers the news regarding all political parties, and this without prejudice. It is a fair newspaper. Its telegraph and cable news service has been proved to be the best employed by a modern paper. Its special features are unsurpassed. It is the newspaper for the reader who has not access to daily papers. News features, art, and literature combine to make The Republic's Sunday Magazine a specially attractive weekly magazine. The half hour illustrations printed in this magazine surpass anything ever attempted by a newspaper. These products of photography are worth the price of the paper. Special articles by trained writers on the news and the subjects engaging the public attention are prepared for The Republic's Sunday Magazine. A distinctly useful and attractive feature of this magazine is the fiction department. Always reliable and up with the times, the ladies and the modern page a delight. Indeed, The Republic's Sunday Magazine appeals to every member of the family. The subscription price (50c) Semi-weekly Republic is \$1.00 per year. The Republic's Sunday Magazine \$1.25 per year. Both papers are now being offered at the very low price of \$1.50 for one year. To secure his low rate both must be ordered and paid for at the same time.

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